From: Craighead, Scot D
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov','nolandpeebles(a)attbi...
Date: 1/24/02 6:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I was told that I could voice my opinion as a consumer regarding the settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case to you.

As a consumer, I am appalled by this "settlement". This is not a settlement, but the Department of Justice changing sides after having won the case. This settlement does nothing to stop the monopolistic practices of Microsoft in the future. I use MS products as well as products from other sources, but if MS is allowed to continue unhindered, there won't be any other choices much longer. As the court has ruled, MS has on many occasions elected to force the consumer to use MS products. The court has a responsibility to protect the consumer from a company that has shown both the ability and the disposition to use monopoly power to benefit itself at the expense of both the consumer and anyone who might make a competing product. Our government should do everything in it's power to encourage competition between companies. Breaking MS into 2 companies does not hurt the stock holders at MS, but it does relieve the conflict of interest between an operating system and a software vendor that currently exists. As things are now, there is no incentive for an investor to start a new company to make any software product. If the product is successful at all, MS will take action to destroy the company so that it does have to compete. Remember that it is people that owned the stock of the companies, like Netscape, that have been hurt.

It is competition that has made the United States great. Without competition, a company can produce poor products and charge high rates for it because I, the consumer, have no choice but to buy the product. We need to vote with our buying choices for which product is better to encourage companies to make better products at better prices. Please reconsider this settlement. Thank you.

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